

Remarks Honoring the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project

November 10, 1993

The President. I want to welcome Diane Evans and all the members of the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project who are here to do an unveiling of a model of the statue which will be formally commemorated tomorrow on Veteran's Day. I have a few other remarks I want to make in a moment, but let me just say that the people who have worked on this project deserve the thanks of the Nation. They have worked for years and years, and today and tomorrow are very big days for them.

I wanted to give them the opportunity to be seen today by the United States in bringing this model to the White House, where it will be on permanent display. And I want to introduce Diane now to say whatever she'd like to say and then do the unveiling.

[At this point, Ms. Evans thanked the President and presented a replica of the monument to him. Following the presentation, sculptor Glenna Goodacre explained how the monument was designed to honor the women who served in the Vietnam war.]

The President. This is wonderful.

Secretary Babbitt, Mr. Brown, do you want to say anything?

Secretary Babbitt. It's a great pleasure to be here. It's really incredible. I sense that this brings this Mall together in its meaning and in its remembrance and its healing effect. I guess I'm just really pleased, Mr. President, to be the landlord.

The President. And you're about to witness the transfer.

Secretary Brown. Mr. President, I'd just like to make one observation. It appears to me that this memorial here is a living memorial. It speaks to all people who pass by, that freedom is not free, that there is a cost for war when you place people in armed conflict. And that I think in that respect, it will serve our Nation very, very well as a symbol of peace and the extent with which we will go to make sure that peace comes about in our world.

The President. These documents, first of all, are witnesses that I am going to sign attesting the conveyance of the memorial to the Department of the Interior. This is a proclamation which names the National Women's Veterans Recognition Week, that on this year is Veteran's Day, to recognize the special importance of that. So I am going to sign these with all these pens so that all the people here can have——

[At this point, the President signed the memorandum of understanding and the proclamation, and Ms. Evans presented the President with a commemorative program.]

The President. Thank you. Thank you all very much.

NAFTA Debate

Q. Mr. President, we know you're happy with the performance of the Vice President. Is there going to be any effect on Capitol Hill?

The President. I think so. We'll talk more about it in the press conference in a few minutes.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:17 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Diane Evans, chair, Vietnam Women's Memorial Project, and Jesse Brown, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Proclamation 6622—National Women Veterans Recognition Week, 1993

November 10, 1993

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

American women have served with distinction and courage in every overseas combat theater of conflict since World War I. Some have been wounded in the line of duty, and others have given their lives for our country, but all have contributed tremendously to the